

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for fuel cell packaging are embodied in a pair of complementary fuel cell receptacles within which a stack of fuel cells are housed in a staggered or spiral configuration. The fuel cells are provided with ports positioned in their corner portions. The fuel cell receptacles include a plurality of port interfacing surfaces over which the corners of the fuel cells are positioned, thereby providing direct fluidic interfaces between the flow field areas of the fuel cells and the receptacles. In a preferred embodiment, o-rings are employed at the fluidic interfaces between the fuel cells and the receptacles. The fuel cell receptacles also include manifolds and a plurality of conduits between the port interfacing surfaces and the manifolds. In a preferred embodiment, the manifolds vary in depth along the receptacles such that the conduits are substantially equal in length. The fuel cell receptacles are detachably secured together and facilitate the employment of a mechanism for pressing the stack of fuel cells together to ensure good electrical contacts between adjacent fuel cells of the stack.